

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Medical Measures to Combat Special Battle Conditions Imposed by Weather or Locale	DATE DISTR.	17 March 1955
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The following medical measures are necessary to combat special battle conditions imposed by weather or locale.

Winter

1. The following special equipment is necessary for winter:
 - a. Winter clothing, e.g. fur coats, quilted uniforms, and underwear.
 - b. Camouflage sheets.
 - c. Extra blankets and special equipment, e.g., foot quilts for the sick and wounded.
 - d. Transport: skis, sledges, pontoons.
 - e. Special wrappings for medical supplies.
2. All transport is covered and heated. Ambulance "warming points" are set up, where patients are fed, warmed, and have their emergency dressings checked.
3. The acquisition of frost bite is a punishable offense. Instructions on the prevention of frost bites are given, and special ointments are distributed.

Darkness

4. Dogs are used, in conjunction with ambulance patrols, for locating battle casualties at night. Narrow-beamed electric torches can be used, provided the bearer has his back to the enemy.
5. Ambulances move at very low speeds and without lights. It is usual for them to be preceded by a soldier carrying a white object to give guidance to the driver.

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6. Ambulance patrols are trained in dressing wounds in complete darkness for emergency cases.

Mountains

7. Special equipment is needed for the evacuation of wounded, e.g., pannier carriages drawn by horses or mules.
8. Anti-tetanus injections are given to the wounded.

Swamps

9. Soldiers receive instructions on the quick and efficient treatment of colds, malaria, and inflammation of the joints. Special drying facilities should be provided.
10. Arrangements must be made for the evacuation by water of the sick and wounded, e.g., by raft.

Inhabited Areas

11. When entering a built-up area after a successful attack, it will be necessary to take preventive measures against disease, and epidemics left by the retreating enemy. It may be that the enemy will even leave his more serious casualties behind.
12. Preventative steps include stopping troops from using unauthorized water supplies, and prohibiting their having contact with civilians who should be immediately evacuated to the rear.
13. The enemy's medical staff should be used as widely as possible for giving treatment to prisoners and civilian casualties.
14. Medical equipment left by the enemy should be collected. Stores and dispensaries should be guarded by sentries as they are only to be used after a laboratory check.
15. When an inhabited area is being defended the evacuation of casualties may not be so difficult. Convenient safe passages can be made by "mouseholing" through the cellars of a row of houses.
16. Preparations must be made for a state of siege. Adequate supplies must be built up and arrangements made for qualified medical treatment to be given within the besieged area.
17. Adequate supplies of fresh water must be secured and properly controlled.
18. Food stocks must be laid in and care taken that they are properly stored.
19. Proper arrangements must be made for the burial of the dead.

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